

§Appl. No. 10/526,499
Amdt. dated July 7, 2008
Reply to Office Action of, April 7, 2008

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for ex situ oxidizing passivation of a sulfurized hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst, comprising a first step of contacting said sulphurized catalyst with at least one oxidizing gaseous stream, and a second step of ~~before or after said step~~ contacting the catalyst with at least one organic liquid with an initial boiling point of more than 120°C which at least partially fills the pores of the catalyst.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein contact with said gas stream is carried out in two stages, the first in a partial pressure of oxygen of less than 8 kPa, the second in a partial pressure of oxygen that is higher than that of the first stage and at most 21.3 kPa.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the second stage of the first step is carried out in air.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein contact with said gas stream is carried out in one or more stages with one or more gas streams all having a partial pressure of oxygen of more than 8 kPa.

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Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6 wherein the stream or streams is/are air.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is treated while in motion.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst is in a moving bed.

Claim 10 (Original) A process according to claim 9, carried out in a rotary oven, a fluidized bed oven, a band oven, a gravity bed reactor oven or a rising bed device.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said organic liquid used in the second step comprises kerosene, gas oil, a vacuum distillate, a lube oil, a wax or a paraffin with an initial boiling point of more than 180°C.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said organic ~~compound contains~~ liquid comprises a compound containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 12, wherein said organic ~~compound~~ liquid comprises an alcohol, an aldehyde, a ketone, an ester, an amine, an amide, a mercaptan, a sulphide or a sulphone.

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Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 13, wherein the organic ~~compound~~ liquid is an ester.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein said ester comprises animal or vegetable oils or partially unsaturated fatty acid triglycerides.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises Co and Mo.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the organic ~~compound~~ is liquid comprises an ester.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 6, wherein the organic ~~compound~~ is liquid comprises an ester.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 18, wherein the catalyst comprises Co and Mo.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 19, wherein said ester comprises animal or vegetable oils or partially unsaturated fatty acid triglycerides.